

FOCWA 08/21/2021

Present: Steve Johnson, Gary Hormel, Matt Hess, Frank Avila, Evelyn Mar, George Foxworth, Chuck Gardali, John Fitzpatrick, Michael Bennett, Constance Smith

Minutes were read - The FTD presence was for the anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, not Memorial Day, Constance will correct and forward to Steve. There were no other corrections. Evelyn moved to approve and Frank seconded; there were no dissents.

Membership report: Current membership stands at twenty-six, with two new members joining since the last meeting. Membership drive will start "in the fall" as many sites are closing due to the COVID Delta variant. An anonymous member has again offered to pay for two more new memberships. Gary has ordered 500 business cards and will include several with each membership card given to members. Any current member who wants cards should contact Gary and he will forward them.

Treasurer's report: no new expenses. See attached

Constance moved to accept both reports; Chuck seconded, there were no dissents.

Fort Point: Living History Day on 08/28/2021 has been cancelled due to the resurgence of the delta variant.

Alcatraz: The ferries now arrive every half hour, and hold up to three hundred (300) people, including children. The rangers had not been informed that the numbers were being increased. Night tours are scheduled to start in Sept. 2021.

The site needs more volunteers as there are only a few rangers available - two new seasonal rangers are being trained but do not have the knowledge necessary. Steve was on the Island 08/15/2021 and conducted three programs. He had approximately 100 people at each program. Gary has also been out to The Rock and had the two new rangers in his group who wanted to learn the military history. He was able to assist one in answering questions from a member of the public. Anyone who wishes to volunteer needs to complete training on the use of radios, wearing the uniform etc. It takes ½ a day and Wendy will co-ordinate the training.

Steve has proposed a "mini" event on The Rock- stations with small displays and Union soldiers but no band. He will discuss with Christian after discussion with Gary and Constance.

Matt explained his proposed program on WWII life on Alcatraz and several people offered ideas how to introduce Civil war history into his topic.

Steve explained that it is currently possible to park on pier next to the Alcatraz Dock. The code is 3131. The building will be turned into a visitor's center in the future.

Angel Island: Steve has attempted to contact the new supervisor by phone and email without success. He is thinking about going to the island in person. He wants to propose re-enactors be placed at the officer's house next to the cannons for the 5 min tram stop.

Steve gave a "shout out" to Michael Bennett who has been conducting programs at both Ft Point and Alcatraz. A special "thank you" to Chuck for creating the template for the membership cards and to Steve for the calligraphy.

Frank discussed the need to make sure that each person participating in a live program where a weapon is discharged is covered by insurance. Volunteers on federal property are covered, unless they break the rules. Steve volunteered to help set up school programs using his Zoom account. Constance is trying to reach out to the Santa Rosa School District and may be offered a job with the City of Santa Rosa adult educational department. She will then be able to recruit for FOCWA.

Frank reviewed the details of the “live” school event held in San Jose recently by the Sons of Union Veterans - the students were able to view the Union camp set up in the schoolyard for two hours and then demonstrations, plus discussions, were conducted on Zoom. A teacher had a hand held camera, and was able to transmit the scene on a computer. (note from Steve: this is the kind of thing we could do as well)

New business:

As most events on Veteran’s Day have been cancelled, Gary and Steve will again have a presence in their Union uniforms that day at the Presidio Cemetery, welcoming visitors. FOCWA members are invited to attend. Steve will provide more details as 11/11/2021 approaches.

NOTE: Gary’s birthday is 11/10/2021 so Constance will bring a cake.

Constance reminded everyone of the planned event in Dec 2021 to decorate the graves of CW veterans in the Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery. A collation will be served at her home after the event.

Submitted by Constance Smith

FOCWA Secretary